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Asia Pacific News
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On Facebook

West Asia on Alert
Why US Embassies Are Warning Citizens to Depart

The latest warning from U.S. embassies across West Asia urging American citizens to consider leaving or be prepared to depart is a serious indicator of how quickly regional tensions can worsen. The advisories cite an unpredictable security environment, possible escalation, flight cancellations and airspace closures.

Widening security crisis in West Asia could have consequences for energy, shipping and global travel.

From an international security perspective, this is more than routine travel advice. When diplomatic missions begin preparing citizens for sudden departures, it signals that governments are taking the possibility of a wider conflict seriously. For countries such as India, which has strong economic, energy and people-to-people links with the Gulf, any prolonged instability could also affect oil prices, shipping, air travel and overseas workers.

US Embassies Urge Citizens to Leave West Asia Amid Rising Tensions
Travel warnings highlight growing concerns over conflict, airspace disruptions and regional instability.
US EMBASSY
CONSIDER LEAVING

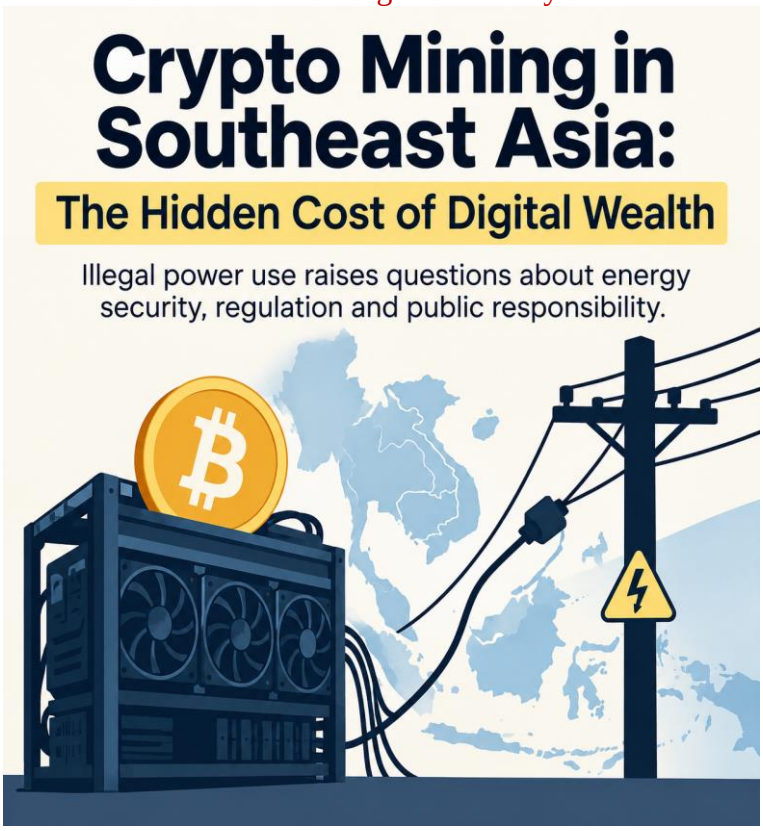
The priority now should be diplomacy and de-escalation. Military escalation in West Asia can quickly cross borders and create consequences far beyond the immediate conflict zone. The U.S. warnings should therefore be viewed as an opportunity for regional and global powers to push harder for dialogue before another crisis becomes uncontrollable.

Mumbai Hosts Successful Indo-Egyptian Film Festival, Strengthening Cultural and Cinematic Ties

PAGE 05

Bitcoin Mining and Power Theft
Growing Southeast Asian Problem

Power theft linked to crypto mining highlights the hidden costs of the digital economy.


Crypto Mining in Southeast Asia:
The Hidden Cost of Digital Wealth
Illegal power use raises questions about energy security, regulation and public responsibility.

The rapid growth of cryptocurrency mining in Southeast Asia is raising an uncomfortable question: who ultimately pays for the digital economy? Reports of crypto miners illegally tapping electricity supplies highlight how the pursuit of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies can create serious costs for ordinary citizens and public utilities.

Crypto mining requires enormous amounts of electricity. When miners steal or bypass power supplies, the damage goes beyond lost revenue for electricity companies. It can place additional pressure on power grids, increase the risk of outages and shift the financial burden onto consumers.

Southeast Asia has become an attractive destination for cryptocurrency mining because of relatively affordable electricity, growing digital infrastructure and, in some areas, weaker enforcement. But cheap energy cannot become a justification for illegal consumption. Governments need stronger monitoring, transparent regulations and tougher action against electricity theft.

The bigger issue is sustainability. The cryptocurrency industry often presents itself as a symbol of technological progress, but progress loses its meaning when it depends on stolen public resources. Crypto mining must become more energy-efficient, legally compliant and environmentally responsible if the industry wants long-term public acceptance.

The lesson for Southeast Asia is clear: digital innovation should create economic opportunities, not transfer hidden costs to citizens. Cryptocurrency may be virtual, but its demand for electricity—and its impact on society—is very real.

West Asia Conflict Puts India's Real Estate Market Under Pressure

The ongoing West Asia crisis is creating an unexpected challenge for India's real estate sector. Rising crude oil prices, higher shipping costs and disruptions in energy supplies are increasing the cost of construction materials such as cement, steel, tiles and PVC products. These pressures could lead to project delays and higher costs for developers.

The impact is particularly visible in premium and luxury housing. Gulf-based NRIs have traditionally been an important buyer group for expensive Indian properties, but growing uncertainty is making many of them more cautious. Some are now preferring equities, mutual funds and other assets that are easier to manage and exit.

Construction inflation and changing NRI investment preferences could reshape the housing market.

The government's four-month extension for eligible housing projects offers developers some relief from penalties linked to construction delays. However, this is only a temporary solution. It does not address rising input costs, supply-chain disruptions or weakening demand in some segments.

West Asia Crisis:
Why India's Real Estate Sector Is Feeling the Heat
Rising costs, supply disruptions and cautious NRI buyers are creating fresh challenges for Indian property markets.

In an encouraging sign, institutional investment in Indian real estate remains strong, suggesting that long-term confidence in the sector has not disappeared. Commercial real estate, including offices, warehouses and data centres, may also remain relatively resilient.

In my view, the West Asia crisis is less a threat to India's entire real estate industry and more a warning about its existing weaknesses. Developers' heavy focus on luxury housing, rising construction costs and dependence on a limited pool of buyers could become bigger problems if the conflict and high oil prices continue.

The real test will be whether Gulf-based NRI demand returns after the crisis. If their preference permanently shifts towards more liquid financial assets, India's luxury housing market could face a structural change even after the geopolitical crisis ends.

Is India Becoming Asia's 'Anti-AI' Trade?

India's broader growth story may offer investors an alternative to AI-driven markets

India could emerge as an unusual beneficiary of the global AI boom—not because it is avoiding artificial intelligence, but because its economic story is broader than AI.

While markets such as South Korea and Taiwan remain heavily linked to semiconductor and AI investments, India offers exposure to banking, consumption, infrastructure, manufacturing, telecom and digital services. Strong economic growth and improving investment flows are adding to its appeal.

India: Asia's New 'Anti-AI' Investment Bet
Why India's diversified economy could benefit as investors rethink AI-heavy markets
AI

Calling India an "anti-AI" market, however, may be misleading. AI adoption is growing rapidly across Indian businesses, with the technology increasingly influencing productivity and investment.

The bigger opportunity is that India may offer investors AI exposure without excessive dependence on AI stocks. If global concerns over AI valuations continue, India's diversified growth model could become increasingly attractive.

FAIRS | SHOWS | EXPOS | MORE

10 - 12 Sep 2026
China International (Guangzhou) Fisheries & Seafood Expo (FISHEX)
Guangzhou
The 12th China International (Guangzhou) Fisheries & Seafood Expo (FISHEX) will be held from 10–12 September 2026 in Guangzhou, bringing together global fisheries and seafood industry stakeholders on a leading trade and networking platform.

11 - 13 Nov 2026
China International Pharmaceutical Exhibition and Technology Exchange Conference (PHARMEX)
Wuhan
It will be held at the Wuhan International Expo Center, bringing together pharmaceutical industry leaders, researchers and innovators. The event will showcase latest advancements in pharmaceutical technologies while offering keynote sessions, expert discussions and networking opportunities to promote collaboration as well as innovation across the industry.

05 - 08 Sep 2026
China International Furniture Machinery & Woodworking Machinery Fair (Shanghai) (WMF)
Shanghai
The fair is Asia's leading exhibition for woodworking and furniture manufacturing technologies, bringing together top machinery manufacturers and industry professionals. Featuring more than 400 exhibitors, the fair showcases advanced equipment and innovative solutions for custom and mass furniture production, making it a key platform for business networking and industry collaboration.

07 - 08 Aug 2026
China Xinjiang International Agricultural Expo
Urumqi
The expo will be held at the Xinjiang International Convention and Exhibition Center in Urumqi, showcasing the latest innovations and technologies in agriculture. The expo brings together industry leaders, businesses and experts to promote sustainable farming, technological advancement and international collaboration.

22 - 24 Aug 2026
International Jewellery Fair
Sydney
The fair will be held at the International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC Sydney) in Sydney, Australia. The event will showcase the latest jewellery trends, innovative designs and premium collections while bringing together leading designers, manufacturers, retailers and industry professionals from around the world.

31 Aug - 03 Sep 2026
Fine Food Australia
Melbourne
Fine Food Australia will take place at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) in Melbourne, Australia. The trade-only event brings together foodservice and hospitality professionals to discover new products, connect with suppliers, attend educational sessions and explore the latest innovations shaping the food industry.

19 – 21 Sep 2026
AGHA Sydney Gift Fair
Sydney
The AGHA Sydney Gift Fair will be held from February 14–16, 2026, at the Sydney Showground in Sydney, Australia. The leading trade event showcases the latest gifts, homewares, and lifestyle products, offering retailers an ideal platform to source new collections, discover emerging brands, and connect with industry suppliers.

04 - 06 Sep 2026
Matta Fair
Kuala Lumpur
The MATTA Fair will be held at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre (MITEC) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The leading travel expo will feature airlines, hotels, travel agencies and tourism boards, offering exclusive travel deals, destination insights, and a wide range of holiday packages for visitors.

14 - 17 Jan 2027
Thailand International Boat Show A Luxury Lifestyle Event (TIBS)
Phuket
TIBS will be held at Phuket Yacht Haven Marina in Phuket, Thailand, showcasing luxury yachts, superyachts, marine technology and premium lifestyle brands. It brings together yacht owners, industry professionals, luxury enthusiasts.

21 - 23 Aug 2026
Global Art & Design Education Expo
Colombo
The expo will be held at Taj Samudra in Colombo, Sri Lanka, bringing together universities, educational institutions and aspiring art as well as design students. The event provides a platform for student recruitment, academic collaborations, networking.

Disclaimer
Dates, venues and other details are subject to change. Check their official websites.

26 - 28 Aug 2026
Japan Jewellery Fair (JJF)
Tokyo
The fair will be held in Tokyo, Japan, bringing together leading jewellery manufacturers, designers, wholesalers and buyers from around the world. The B2B trade fair showcases latest jewellery collections, gemstones and industry innovations while providing valuable networking and business opportunities for global participants.

02 - 04 Sep 2026
Tokyo International Gift Show (TIGS)
Tokyo
TIGS will be held at Tokyo Big Sight in Tokyo, Japan, bringing together thousands of exhibitors showcasing gifts, homewares, lifestyle products, fashion, stationery and consumer goods. The leading B2B trade fair provides an ideal platform for buyers, retailers and manufacturers to discover new products, build partnerships and explore the latest market trends.

20 - 24 Aug 2026
Hyderabad International Machine Tool & Engineering Expo (HIMTEX)
Hyderabad
HIMTEX will be held in Hyderabad, India, showcasing latest innovations in machine tools, engineering, robotics, automation and advanced manufacturing technologies. The industrial exhibition brings together manufacturers, suppliers and industry professionals to explore new business opportunities as well as advancements in engineering sector.

21 - 23 Aug 2026
Footwear India Expo (FIE)
New Delhi
FIE is a leading B2B trade fair that brings together footwear manufacturers, brands, wholesalers, distributors, suppliers of machinery under one roof. The event provides a platform for product sourcing, business networking, strategic partnerships, and exploring the latest trends and innovations in the footwear industry.

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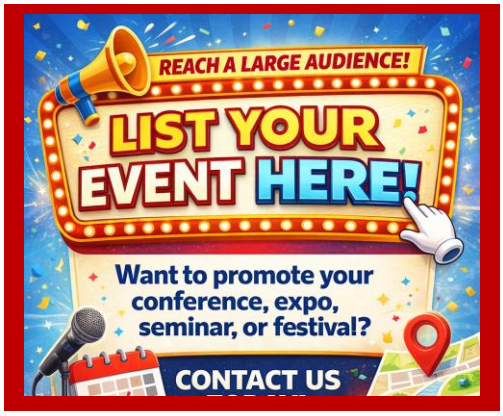

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Mumbai Hosts Successful Indo-Egyptian Film Festival, Strengthening Cultural and Cinematic Ties

Mumbai, July 15, 2026: Mumbai witnessed a vibrant celebration of cinema and cultural diplomacy as the Indo-Egyptian Film Festival was successfully held on July 14–15, 2026, at the Green Technology Auditorium, University of Mumbai, Kalina.

Bringing together diplomats, filmmakers, students, academics and cinema enthusiasts, the two-day festival celebrated the power of storytelling to build stronger cultural connections between India and Egypt.

The festival was organised with the support and collaboration of the Consulate General of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Mumbai, Indian Chambers for International Business (ICIB), University of Mumbai and EgyptAir.

The festival was graced by H.E. Mrs. Dahlia Tawakol, Consul General of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Mumbai, whose presence underscored the growing importance of cultural and people-to-people engagement between India and Egypt. She highlighted cinema's potential to bring societies closer by enabling audiences to understand each other's culture, stories and perspectives.

The initiative was spearheaded by Jayita Ghosh, Chairperson – Film & Media Committee, ICIB, who curated the festival with the vision of using cinema as a platform for cultural diplomacy, international collaboration and meaningful connections between the creative communities of India and Egypt.

The inaugural ceremony featured remarks by distinguished representatives of the participating

organisations, followed by a cultural presentation celebrating the friendship between the two nations.

Two Countries, Two Cinematic Traditions, One Platform

The opening day featured the Egyptian film Hob El Banat (Girls' Love), directed by Khaled El-Hagar, followed by an Indian masterclass and the screening of Rainbow Fields, directed by Bidyut Kotoky.

The second day continued the cinematic exchange with another Indian masterclass and the screening of DISHAA, directed by Rahul B. Seth.

Adding an important Egyptian industry perspective, the programme also featured a recorded video address and masterclass from the Egyptian National Center of Cinema, providing audiences with insights into Egyptian cinema and its filmmaking ecosystem.

The programme concluded with the screening of the Egyptian film Photocopy, directed by Tamer Ashry.

Cinema as a Bridge Between Nations

More than a showcase of films, the Indo-Egyptian Film Festival demonstrated how cinema can serve as an effective instrument of cultural diplomacy—transcending geographical and linguistic boundaries and creating conversations between people.

Through screenings, masterclasses and interactions, the festival provided filmmakers, students and audiences with an opportunity to experience different storytelling traditions while discovering the cultural connections shared by India and Egypt.

Adding an exciting element to the festival, EgyptAir supported the celebration by offering two complimentary air tickets to Egypt to the lucky winners of a special lucky draw held during the event. The initiative added to the spirit of cultural exchange by giving the winners an opportunity to experience Egypt beyond the screen and discover the country's culture and heritage firsthand.

The festival concluded with a closing ceremony acknowledging the contribution of participating filmmakers, institutions, partners and audiences.

The successful festival represents another step towards strengthening India-Egypt cultural relations and people-to-people connections, while opening new possibilities for continued cinematic exchange, creative collaborations and institutional partnerships between the two countries.

Can Bangladesh Move Towards Political Stability After Shahabuddin's Exit?

The reported resignation of Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin marks another significant chapter in the country's ongoing political crisis. While the presidency is largely a constitutional role, the move reflects growing pressure on state institutions following months of political uncertainty.

As Bangladesh enters a new phase, the path to stability will require dialogue, reforms, inclusive governance.

The resignation may help ease immediate tensions, but it does not resolve the deeper issues surrounding democratic governance, constitutional reforms, and public trust. Bangladesh's political stability will ultimately depend on transparent leadership, credible institutions, and inclusive dialogue among all stakeholders.

As one of South Asia's key economies, Bangladesh's next political steps will be closely watched by neighbouring countries, investors, and the international community. The focus should now shift from leadership changes to building lasting democratic stability and restoring confidence in the nation's institutions.

Why the China-North Korea Partnership Still Matters in 2026

China and North Korea have marked the 65th anniversary of their 1961 friendship treaty, reaffirming what both sides call an alliance "sealed in blood." While the partnership remains politically significant, today's relationship is increasingly driven by strategic interests rather than historical ideology.

North Korea's growing ties with Russia and China's efforts to balance regional stability with global economic priorities have reshaped the alliance. Despite these shifts, Beijing continues to view Pyongyang as an important strategic buffer amid rising US-led security cooperation in East Asia.

Mumbai Celebrates International Tea Day with a Grand Showcase of World-Famous Ceylon Tea
PAGE 07

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Current Affairs Quiz

By Sunil Sonkar

1. What is the broader lesson from the Vietnam boat tragedy?
A. Tourism should focus only on commercial growth
B. International travel should be restricted
C. Tourism must prioritize safety, accountability and preparedness
D. Marine tourism should be completely stopped

2. Which measure is recommended to improve safety during marine tourism?
A. Eliminating safety briefings
B. Real-time weather monitoring
C. Allowing boats to sail in all weather
D. Reducing emergency drills

3. At least how many Indian tourists were reported killed in the Vietnam boat tragedy?
A. 5 B. 10
C. 15 D. 25

4. Where did the boat tragedy involving Indian tourists occur?
A. Bali
B. Phuket
C. Phu Quoc Island, Vietnam
D. Colombo

5. Why does China continue to consider North Korea strategically important?
A. North Korea is a major tourist destination
B. It serves as an important strategic buffer
C. It supplies most of China's oil
D. It is China's largest trading partner

6. What anniversary did China and North Korea mark in 2026?
A. 25th B. 50th
C. 65th D. 75th

7. What is the main concern following Mohammed Shahabuddin's reported resignation?
A. Bangladesh's tourism industry
B. Deeper issues surrounding democratic governance and public trust
C. A shortage of agricultural land
D. Falling exports of technology

8. What does cryptocurrency mining require in large quantities?
A. Water B. Coal
C. Electricity D. Agricultural land

A N S W E R S

1. (C), 2. (B), 3. (C), 4. (C), 5. (B), 6. (C), 7. (B), 8. (C)

Mumbai Celebrates International Tea Day with a Grand Showcase of World-Famous Ceylon Tea

Mumbai: To commemorate International Tea Day, the Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Mumbai, in association with the Indian Chamber of International Business (ICIB), organised a special celebration dedicated to the heritage, excellence, and global legacy of Ceylon Tea. The event brought together members of the tea industry, importers, distributors, business leaders, hospitality professionals, and invited guests for an engaging afternoon of presentations, tea appreciation, tea tasting, and business networking.

The programme showcased the remarkable journey of Ceylon Tea—from the mist-covered highlands of Sri Lanka to becoming one of the world's most celebrated teas. Guests were taken through insightful presentations highlighting Sri Lanka's rich tea heritage, sustainable cultivation practices, stringent quality standards, and the country's position as one of the world's leading exporters of premium tea.

The celebration reflected the continued commitment of the Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Mumbai to promoting Sri Lankan products and strengthening economic and cultural relations with India.

Participants also learned about the seven distinctive tea-growing regions of Sri Lanka, each producing teas with unique flavour profiles influenced by altitude, climate, rainfall, and soil conditions. The sessions also highlighted how the iconic Lion Logo found on packs of authentic Ceylon Tea is recognised worldwide as a symbol of purity, quality, and authenticity.

A specially curated tea tasting session offered guests the opportunity to savour a diverse range of premium Ceylon Teas while appreciating their distinctive aromas, colours, body, flavour profiles, and brewing characteristics. Guided by industry experts, participants experienced firsthand the unique qualities that distinguish teas from Sri Lanka's different growing regions. The interactive session further encouraged discussions on innovation, branding, value addition, and expanding opportunities for Sri Lankan tea in the Indian market.

The event also served as an important business networking platform, enabling direct interactions between Sri Lankan tea producers and Indian importers, distributors, retailers, hospitality professionals, and potential business partners to explore future collaborations and strengthen bilateral trade.

Speaking on the occasion, the organisers emphasised that tea has always been more than just a beverage—it is a bridge between cultures, traditions, and communities. Initiatives such as this not only celebrate the legacy of Ceylon Tea but also create meaningful opportunities for trade, knowledge exchange, long-term partnerships, and the promotion of premium and artisan tea between India and Sri Lanka, particularly in the growing artisan tea sector.

The celebration reflected the continued commitment of the Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Mumbai to promoting Sri Lankan products and strengthening economic and cultural relations with India. The active support of the Indian Chamber of International Business (ICIB) further reinforced the shared vision of fostering international business collaborations through meaningful engagement and strengthening ties between the tea industries of both nations.

The event concluded on a positive note, with participants appreciating the opportunity to experience the timeless excellence of Ceylon Tea while building valuable professional relationships. The celebration reaffirmed that every cup of authentic Ceylon Tea carries not only exceptional quality but also the rich heritage, craftsmanship, sustainability, and enduring friendship shared between Sri Lanka and India.

Strategy Bites

Nescafé in Japan: Sometimes the Best Strategy Is Not to Sell

By Jayita Ghosh

Founder & Managing Director of Jayita Strategia, Chairperson of Film & Media Committee at ICIB in Mumbai

One of my favourite business stories is about Nescafé's journey into Japan. Not because it is about coffee, but because it reminds us of one simple truth: people don't always buy what you are selling; they buy what they emotionally relate to.

After World War II, Nescafé was expanding rapidly across the world. Market after market welcomed the brand, and naturally, Japan seemed like the next big opportunity. But things didn't go as planned.

Despite all their efforts, people in Japan weren't interested in coffee. It wasn't that the product was bad. It simply didn't belong to their everyday life. For them, a warm beverage meant green tea. Tea wasn't just a drink—it represented family, culture, comfort, and tradition. Coffee had no such place in their memories.

Many companies, when faced with such a challenge, would increase their advertising budget or push harder to convince customers. Nescafé chose a different path.

Instead of asking, "How do we sell more coffee?" they asked a much better question: "Why aren't people connecting with coffee in the first place?"

To understand this, they consulted experts in consumer psychology. One of the key insights was that our senses—especially smell and taste—are deeply connected to memory and emotion. We rarely fall in love with something simply because we are told it is good. We embrace it when it becomes part of our experiences.

So, Nescafé stopped trying to sell coffee.

Instead, they introduced coffee-flavoured chocolates and confectionery. Children began enjoying the flavour without any pressure to drink coffee. Over the years, that aroma slowly became familiar. It became associated with happy moments, celebrations, and small everyday joys.

Years later, when those children grew up and came across a cup of coffee, it no longer felt strange. It felt familiar. What had once been an unfamiliar taste had quietly become a comforting memory.

That transformation didn't happen overnight. It took patience. It took understanding. And most importantly, it took empathy.

This story teaches us a lesson that goes far beyond marketing.

Whether you are building a brand, pitching a business, or trying to introduce a new idea, remember this: people don't resist products; they resist unfamiliarity.

As entrepreneurs, we often become so focused on selling that we forget to build a relationship first. We want immediate results, immediate conversions, immediate success. But trust, familiarity, and emotional connection cannot be rushed.

Sometimes, the smartest strategy is not to sell harder. It is to understand people better.

Strategy Bite:

Before asking people to buy your product, ask yourself one question: "Have I given them a reason to emotionally connect with it?" Because in the end, people may remember your features for a while, but they will remember how your brand made them feel for a lifetime.

Scan | Watch Jayita Ghosh's Social Profile

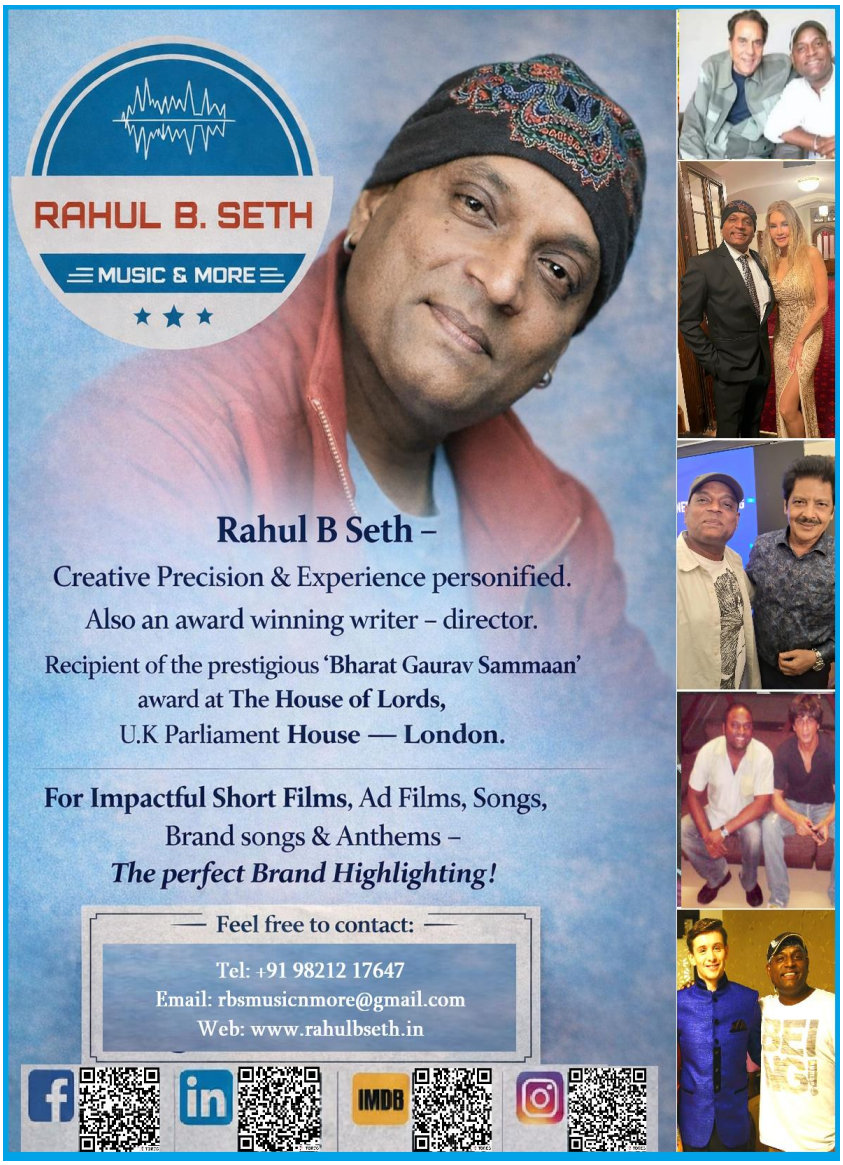
Tourist Safety Under Scrutiny After Vietnam Boat Tragedy

The Phu Quoc Island accident should push governments and tour operators to strengthen maritime safety and emergency preparedness.

The tragic boat accident near Vietnam's Phu Quoc Island, which claimed the lives of at least 15 Indian tourists, is more than a heartbreaking news story—it is a reminder that tourism safety cannot be treated as an afterthought. Rescue teams managed to save several passengers, but the loss of innocent lives has raised serious questions about weather preparedness, emergency response, and safety protocols during marine tourism activities.

As international travel continues to grow, governments and tour operators must place passenger safety above commercial interests. Real-time weather monitoring, strict enforcement of sailing guidelines, compulsory safety briefings, and regular emergency drills should become standard practice. Travelers, too, should pay attention to weather warnings and verify the safety standards of tour operators before embarking on sea excursions.

The Vietnam boat tragedy serves as a painful reminder that a memorable holiday can turn into a disaster within moments. While the immediate focus remains on supporting the victims' families and investigating the incident, the larger lesson is clear: tourism must be built on safety, accountability, and preparedness. Only then can destinations earn the trust of travelers from around the world.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When Indoors Feels Hotter Than Outside

Rising heat and poor design are turning homes into urban heat traps

A recent Singapore study revealing that nearly half of public housing flats are hotter indoors than outside is more than surprising—it's alarming. Homes are supposed to provide relief from rising temperatures, not intensify them.

The issue isn't just climate change. Poor ventilation, heat-trapping materials, and dense urban design are turning apartments into heat boxes. What's worse, many residents have begun accepting this discomfort as normal—a mindset that risks slowing real solutions.

There's also a growing inequality. While some can rely on air-conditioning, others cannot afford the cost, creating a divide in basic living comfort. But overdependence on cooling systems only worsens urban heat in the long run.

For rapidly growing cities—especially in countries like India—the warning is clear: housing must evolve. Affordable homes that ignore airflow and thermal comfort will only create bigger health and energy crises.

While some can rely on air-conditioning, others cannot afford the cost, creating a divide in basic living comfort.

A livable home isn't just about space or price anymore. It's about staying cool, safe, and sustainable in a warming world.

Kolkata is set to witness a major boost in India's electric mobility sector

Kolkata, July 29: Mercstone International Private Limited has joined hands with Thailand's Assara Electric Company Limited to manufacture electric scooters in India through a proposed phased investment of nearly ₹250 crore. The first manufacturing facility will come up in West Bengal, marking the beginning of the company's nationwide expansion.

The partnership was announced in the presence of Dr Swapan Dasgupta, Hon'ble Minister of Finance, Shri Arjun Singh, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge of the Department of Labour & Transport, Government of West Bengal, along with senior government officials, industry leaders and an international business delegation.

Under the collaboration, Assara Electric will provide advanced technology and technical expertise, while Mercstone will establish the manufacturing facilities and lead production, sales and after-sales operations across India.

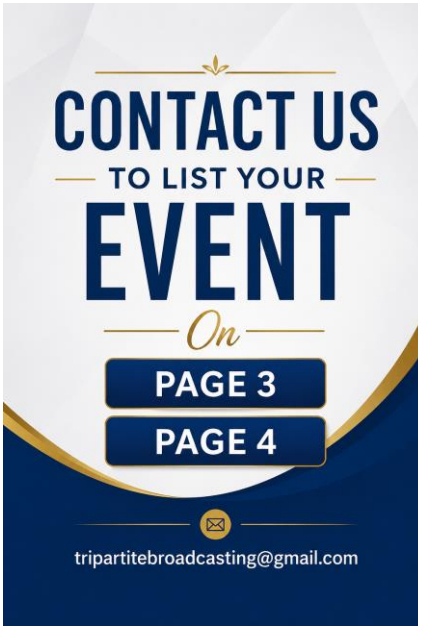
The company plans to manufacture smart electric scooters equipped with Bluetooth connectivity, IoT-based anti-theft technology, smartphone integration, LFP batteries, Electronic Assisted Braking System, waterproof motors and advanced safety features.

Mercstone also aims to build a nationwide dealership and service network, creating significant employment opportunities and strengthening India's EV manufacturing ecosystem.

At the event, Smt Papiya Adhikari, Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly, West Bengal, unveiled the company's new Infrared Cooktop, an energy-efficient cooking solution compatible with all types of household utensils. Dr Rajesh Kumar, Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly, was also present.

Looking ahead, the company plans to diversify into electric four-wheelers over the next five years, reinforcing its vision of making India a global hub for clean mobility manufacturing.

Current Affairs Quiz
PAGE 07



The Light Within

LEAP OF FAITH

By Rahul B Seth

A prolific & popular Music composer, Singer, Lyricist, Voice actor, writer. Above all, a staunch spiritual meditator for over two decades who harnesses the energies of the Universe to enhance creativity & joy of living, and shares his self-experienced deep spiritual insights with all.

Hello friends. Warm greetings to you all.

We all have heard of the commonly used phrase "Leap of Faith" and many have also believed in its undertaking.

For me, it goes way deeper in its true essence.

You see, children are often fearless and bereft of any worries and tensions when it comes to matters of their very existence and availability of all basic means for sustenance.

It is because they have implicit faith and belief in the ability of their parents / guardians to provide for them, to protect them, shelter them, keep them safe from harm and stand by them in times of need.

You must have seen a small child laughing in utmost joy when his/her parent flings the child high up in the air and catches it. Then repeats the act a couple of times which further elevates the child's euphoria.

(You may have done the same)

Now, instead of being scared and terrified, that child is filled with joy ... Only because of the inherent immense faith & trust in it's parent, to safely catch it in time, on its way back to the ground.

And this very faith is evident in all their carefree, playful and fearless actions.

But once we become adults, one very vital truth we all cease to acknowledge is, that there is a much greater super force out there , known as The Universe, responsible for the functioning and sustenance of our entire planet with relentless clockwork precision.

Our relation with the Universe should be the same as that of a child with its parent, filled with implicit faith and trust.

Once that happens, every big or small leap that we take in life, becomes a Leap of Faith, as we are sure that the Universe will catch us, lay out an invisible safety net, and will never let us fall.

But for that to happen, our immense trust in the Universe must be complete, steadfast and unwavering, without even a fraction of doubt.

Thus, keep your Faith always held high in life, enabling you to take a Leap of Faith when needed, and let the Universe protect and guide you always.

May all be blessed with true Inner Joy and Awareness!!

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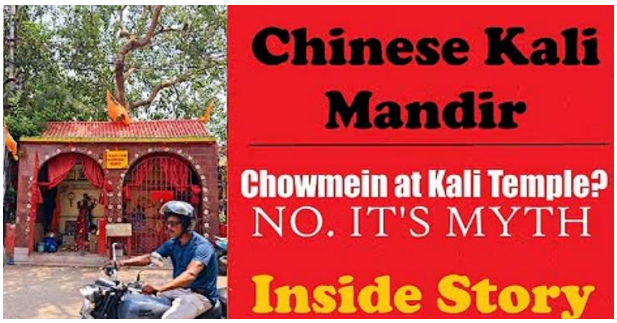

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Malaysia's Refugee Challenge Requires Policy, Not Politics

Malaysia's growing scrutiny of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has sparked an important policy debate. While concerns over refugee registration, documentation, and border security deserve attention, removing or weakening UNHCR's role without a credible replacement could create even greater humanitarian and administrative challenges.

Every nation has the right to protect its borders and strengthen immigration controls. However, an effective refugee policy requires more than stricter enforcement. It needs a transparent national framework for refugee registration, security screening, temporary protection, and international cooperation.

The real question is not whether UNHCR should remain or leave. The focus should be on building a practical, balanced system that safeguards national interests while ensuring vulnerable refugees are treated with dignity and according to international humanitarian principles. A long-term solution lies in policy reform and regional cooperation—not simply replacing one institution without a clear alternative.

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